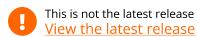


Home > Statistics > Labour > Employment and unemployment > Labour Force, Australia > September 2024



# Labour Force, Australia

Headline estimates of employment, unemployment, underemployment, participation and hours worked from the monthly Labour Force Survey

Reference period September 2024

Released 17/10/2024

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## **Key statistics**

In trend terms, in September 2024:

- unemployment rate remained at 4.1%.
- participation rate increased to 67.2%.
- employment increased to 14,514,300.
- employment to population ratio remained at 64.4%.
- underemployment rate remained at 6.4%.
- monthly hours worked increased to 1,965 million.

In seasonally adjusted terms, in September 2024:

- unemployment rate remained at 4.1%.
- participation rate increased to 67.2%.
- employment increased to 14,521,900.

- employment to population ratio increased to 64.4%.
- underemployment rate decreased to 6.3%.
- monthly hours worked increased to 1,968 million.
- full-time employment increased by 51,600 to 10,028,400 people.
- part-time employment increased by 12,500 to 4,493,500 people.

#### **Key statistics - Trend**

	Aug-24	Sep-24	Monthly change	Monthly change (%)	Yearly change	Yearly change (%)
Employed people	14,469,900	14,514,300	44,400	0.3%	403,400	2.9%
Unemployed people	620,100	621,100	1,100	0.2%	71,600	13.0%
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.1%	0.0 pts	na	0.4 pts	na
Underemployment rate	6.4%	6.4%	0.0 pts	na	-0.2 pts	na
Participation rate	67.1%	67.2%	0.1 pts	na	0.5 pts	na
Monthly hours worked in all jobs	1,961 million	1,965 million	4 million	0.2%	36 million	1.9%

#### Key statistics - Seasonally adjusted

	Aug-24	Sep-24	Monthly change	Monthly change (%)	Yearly change	Yearly change (%
Employed people	14,457,800	14,521,900	64,100	0.4%	434,900	3.1
Unemployed people	624,900	615,700	-9,200	-1.5%	90,100	17.2
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.1%	-0.1 pts	na	0.5 pts	r
Underemployment rate	6.5%	6.3%	-0.1 pts	na	-0.1 pts	r
Participation rate	67.1%	67.2%	0.1 pts	na	0.7 pts	na
Monthly hours worked in all jobs	1,963 million	1,968 million	5 million	0.3%	45 million	2.4%

Estimates of changes throughout this release are calculated using un-rounded level estimates and may be different from, but are more accurate than, movements obtained from the rounded level estimates.

For definitions of labour statistics used in this publication, please refer to <u>Glossary of Labour Force, Australia methodology (/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/sep-2024#glossary)</u>.

# Survey impacts and changes

## Release of modelled regional labour force estimates

The ABS has published new monthly modelled SA4 level estimates in the <u>August 2024 release of Labour Force</u>, <u>Australia</u>, <u>Detailed (/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/aug-2024/#modelled-labour-market-regions-sa4-)</u>. Modelled estimates will be made available each month on the same day as the detailed data.

The ABS recommends using the modelled estimates over the direct survey estimates whenever possible in reporting on regional labour markets.

# Survey response and timeline

The September 2024 Labour Force Survey was run in respect of the two weeks from Sunday 1 September to Saturday 14 September, and collected over the period from Sunday 8 September to Saturday 28 September.

The ABS would like to thank Australians for their continued support in responding to our surveys, given how critically important this information is.

#### **Reference and Enumeration Dates**

Publication	Start of Reference Week	End of Reference Week	Start of Enumeration	End of Enumeration
Aug-24	4th August 2024	17th August 2024	11th August 2024	31st August 2024
Sep-24	1st September 2024	14th September 2024	8th September 2024	28th September 2024
Oct-24	29th September 2024	12th October 2024	6th October 2024	26th October 2024
Nov-24	27th October 2024	9th November 2024	3rd November 2024	23rd November 2024
Dec-24	24th November 2024	7th December 2024	1st December 2024	21st December 2024
Jan-25	5th January 2025	18th January 2025	12th January 2025	1st February 2025

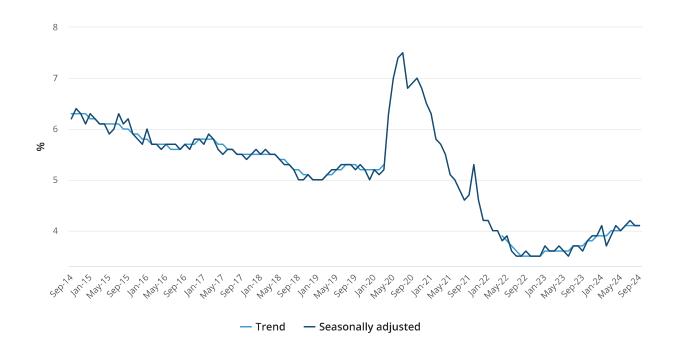
# Unemployment

In trend terms, in September 2024:

- unemployment rate remained at 4.1%.
- unemployed people increased by 1,100 to 621,100.
- youth unemployment rate decreased to 9.5%.

## **Unemployment rate**





Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in <u>Labour Force</u>, <u>Australia methodology</u>, <u>September 2024</u> (/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/sep-2024)</u>.

# **Employment**

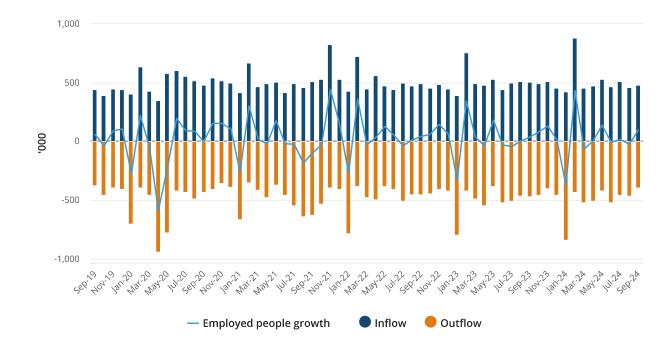
In trend terms, in September 2024, employment increased by 44,400 people (0.3%) to 14,514,300 people.

## Flows into and out of employment

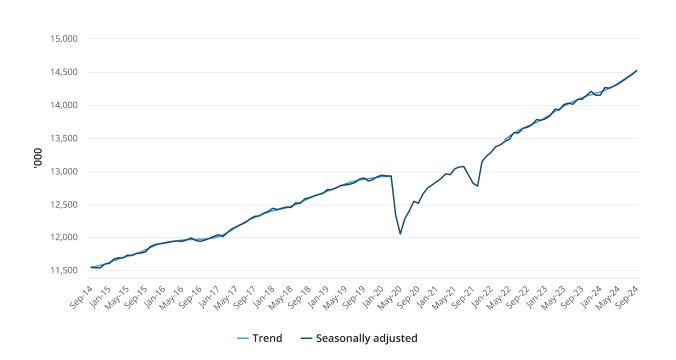
Flows into and out of employment are extensive and are based on the net matched sample of original employment growth between two consecutive months (around 80% of the sample). The (net) sum of the inflows and outflows does not necessarily equal the 'net' employment growth.

For September 2024, the net change in the number of employed people is the result of around 482,000 people entering employment (i.e. they were not employed in August 2024 but were employed in September 2024), while around 391,000 people left employment (i.e. they were employed in August 2024 but not employed in September 2024). This contrasts with August 2024, where around 458,000 people entered employment and around 463,000 people left employment.

Monthly inflows, outflows and employment growth, Original



# **Employed people**



caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in <u>Labour Force</u>, <u>Australia methodology</u>, <u>September 2024 (/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/sep-2024)</u>.

#### Full-time and part-time employment

In trend terms, in September 2024:

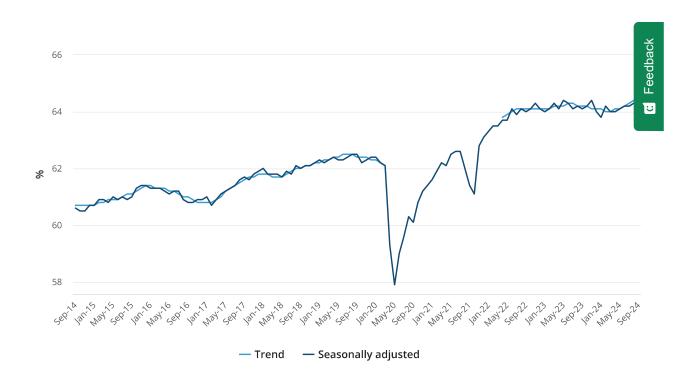
- full-time employment increased by 29,800 to 10,029,100 people, and part-time employment increased by 14,500 to 4,485,100 people.
- part-time share of employment was 30.9%.

#### **Employment-to-population ratio**

In trend terms, in September 2024, the employment-to-population ratio remained at 64.4%.

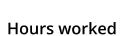
The employment-to-population ratio provides a measure of employment relative to the size of the population.

## **Employment-to-population ratio**



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in <u>Labour Force</u>, <u>Australia methodology</u>, <u>September 2024 (/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/sep-2024)</u>.

## Employment-to-population ratio, Seasonally adjusted



70

% 60

In trend terms, in September 2024, monthly hours worked in all jobs increased by 4.3 million hours (0.2%) to 1,965 million hours.

- People

404, 265, 191. 91

— Females

— Males

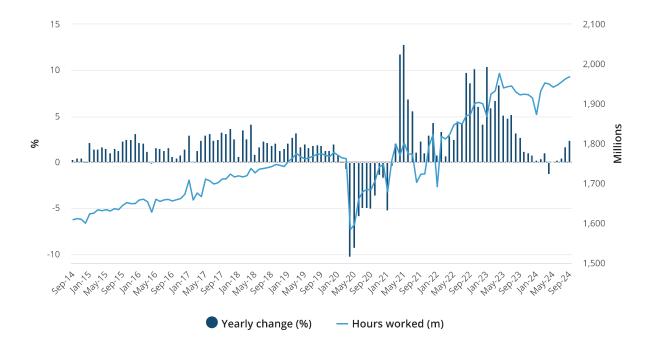
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# Monthly hours worked in all jobs



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in Labour Force, Australia methodology, September 2024 (/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/sep-2024)\_.

Monthly hours worked in all jobs, Seasonally adjusted



# **Participation**

In trend terms, in September 2024, the participation rate:

- increased to 67.2%.
- remained at 71.3% for men and increased to 63.2% for women.

## Participation rate



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in Labour Force, Australia methodology, September 2024 (/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/sep-2024)\_.

## Participation rate, Seasonally adjusted

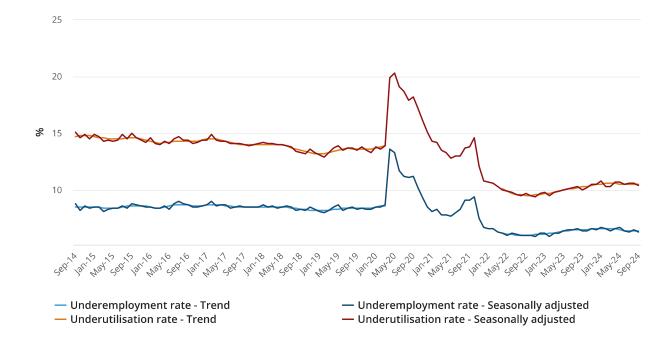


# Underemployment

In trend terms, in September 2024:

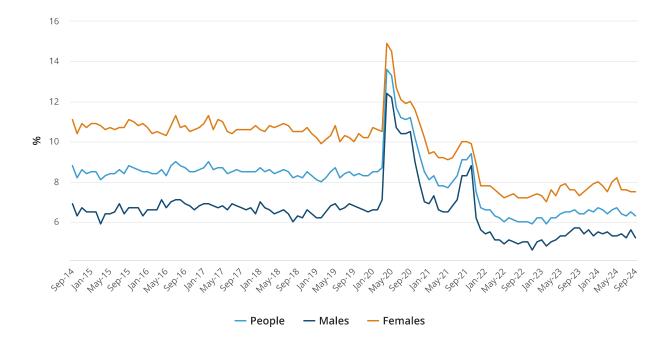
- underemployment rate remained at 6.4%.
- underutilisation rate remained at 10.5%.

Underemployment rate and underutilisation rate



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in Labour Force, Australia methodology, September 2024 (/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/sep-2024)\_.

Underemployment rate, Seasonally adjusted



# States and Territories September 2024 - Trend

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	
Employed people	4,477,300	3,800,600	2,959,700	946,500	1,621,600	281,400	139,100	271,800	1
Employed people - monthly change	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	
Employment to population ratio	63.6%	65.4%	64.4%	60.3%	66.4%	58.2%	69.6%	70.1%	
Employment to population ratio - monthly change	0.1 pts	0.1 pts	0.0 pts	0.1 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	-0.1 pts	0.0 pts	
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.4%	4.1%	4.2%	3.7%	4.3%	4.3%	3.5%	
Unemployment rate - monthly change	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.1 pts	0.0 pts	
Underemployment rate	6.0%	6.7%	6.7%	7.5%	5.4%	7.5%	4.5%	4.9%	
Underemployment rate - monthly change	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.2 pts	0.0 pts	
Participation rate	66.2%	68.4%	67.1%	62.9%	69.0%	60.8%	72.7%	72.7%	

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	_
Participation rate - monthly change	0.1 pts	0.1 pts	0.0 pts	0.1 pts	-0.1 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	

## September 2024 - Seasonally adjusted

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	ļ
Employed people	4,483,100	3,806,600	2,958,900	947,200	1,619,900	281,900	138,500	272,500	1
Employed people - monthly change	0.5%	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	-0.5%	1.2%	
Employment to population ratio	63.7%	65.5%	64.3%	60.3%	66.3%	58.3%	69.3%	70.3%	
Employment to population ratio - monthly change	0.2 pts	0.2 pts	0.0 pts	0.2 pts	0.1 pts	0.3 pts	-0.4 pts	0.7 pts	
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.4%	4.1%	4.3%	3.6%	4.0%	4.2%	3.4%	
Unemployment rate - monthly change	-0.2 pts	-0.1 pts	-0.1 pts	0.4 pts	-0.3 pts	-0.4 pts	0.0 pts	-0.6 pts	
Underemployment rate	6.0%	6.7%	6.6%	7.5%	5.4%	7.9%	5.2%	4.7%	-
Underemployment rate - monthly change	-0.3 pts	0.0 pts	-0.2 pts	-0.2 pts	-0.3 pts	1.3 pts	1.4 pts	-0.3 pts	
Participation rate	66.2%	68.5%	67.1%	63.0%	68.8%	60.7%	72.3%	72.7%	
Participation rate - monthly change	0.1 pts	0.2 pts	-0.1 pts	0.4 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	-0.4 pts	0.3 pts	

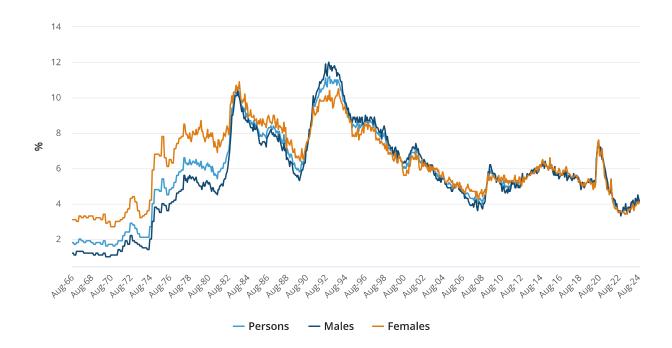
#### **Historical charts**

# Historical charts for employed, unemployed, unemployment rate and participation rate from August 1966 to September 2024

Historical Labour Force estimates of employment, unemployment rate, and participation rate from the historical quarterly and monthly Labour Force Survey.

Prior to 1978 the historical Labour Force Survey was collected quarterly; the current Labour Force Survey is collected monthly. Please refer to the <u>history of changes (/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/sep-2024#history-of-changes)</u> to see the differences between the historical and current Labour Force Survey.

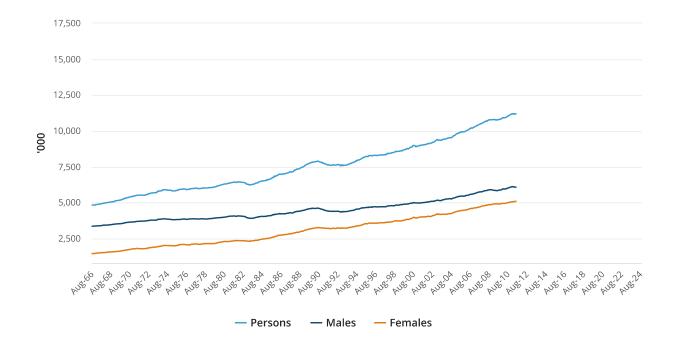
Unemployment rate, Australia, August 1966 to September 2024, Seasonally adjusted



Source: 6204.0.55.001 Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia, 1966-1984, Seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force by seand marital status - 1966-1977 (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/6204.0.55.0011966%20to%201984?

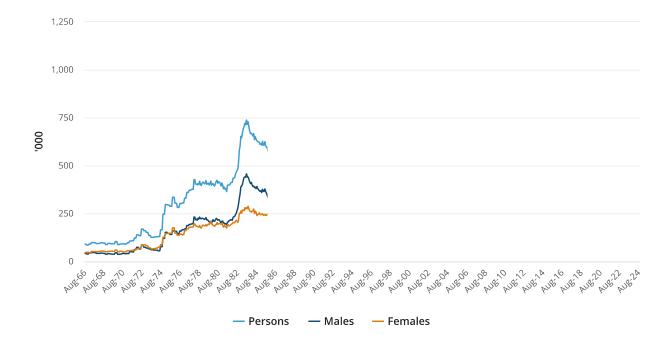
OpenDocument) and 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia, Table 1 (/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australialatest-release#data-downloads)

Employed people, Australia, August 1966 to September 2024, Seasonally adjusted



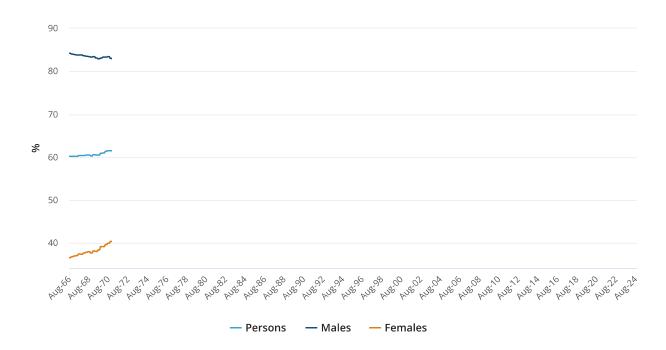
Source: 6204.0.55.001 Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia, 1966-1984, Seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force by seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force and the labour

Unemployed people, Australia, August 1966 to September 2024, Seasonally adjusted



Source: 6204.0.55.001 Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia, 1966-1984, Seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force by seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force and the labour

Participation rate, Australia, August 1966 to September 2024, Seasonally adjusted



Source: 6204.0.55.001 Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia, 1966-1984, Seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force by se and marital status - 1966-1977 (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/6204.0.55.0011966%20to%201984? OpenDocument) and 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia, Table 1 (/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australi latest-release#data-downloads)

## **Rotation group analysis**

#### Sample composition and rotation

The Labour Force Survey sample can be thought of as comprising eight sub-samples (rotation groups), with each sub-sample remaining in the survey for eight months, and one group "rotating out" each month and being replaced by a new group "rotating in". As seven-eighths of the sample are common from one month to the next, changes in the estimates reflect real changes in the labour market, rather than changes in the sample. The replacement sample is generally selected from the same geographic areas as the outgoing one, as part of a representative sampling approach.

The sample comprises three components:

- the matched common sample (people who responded in both the current month and previous month)
- the unmatched common sample (people who responded in the current month but who did not respond in the previous month, or vice versa)
- the incoming rotation group (replacing people who rotated out)

The matched common sample describes the change observed for the same respondents in the current and previous month, while the other two components reflect differences between the aggregate labour force status of different

groups of people.

While the rotation groups are designed to be representative of the population, the outgoing and incoming rotation groups will almost always have somewhat different characteristics, as they reflect different households and people. The design of the survey, including the weighting and estimation processes, ensures that these differences are generally relatively minor and do not affect the representativeness of the survey and its estimates. Monthly estimates are designed to be representative, regardless of the relative contribution of the three components of the sample.

The contributions of the three sample components to the original estimates of employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are in the Contribution from sample components to estimates spreadsheet.

## Estimates for the incoming and outgoing rotation groups

#### Incoming and outgoing rotation groups

August outgoing rotation group	September incoming rotation group	September outgoing rotation group	September estimate (Original)
65.6%	65.5%	66.5%	65.2%
44.8%	44.4%	46.3%	44.8%
4.0%	3.9%	3.2%	3.8%
68.3%	68.1%	68.7%	67.8
	rotation group 65.6% 44.8% 4.0%	rotation group         rotation group           65.6%         65.5%           44.8%         44.4%           4.0%         3.9%	rotation group         rotation group         rotation group           65.6%         65.5%         66.5%           44.8%         44.4%         46.3%           4.0%         3.9%         3.2%

#### States and Territories

In addition to analysis across the entire sample, the ABS also undertakes similar analysis for the responding sample in each state and territory each month, and highlights where there is a notable change for users to be aware of. In September, there were no noteworthy differences in the responding sample that were contributing to monthly movements for any of the states and territories. As with any notable month-to-month movement of this nature in state and territory estimates, the ABS recommends exercising a degree of caution in interpreting short-term changes.

As for its reporting for the entire sample, where the ABS has not highlighted a notable incoming rotation group effect, any larger changes should therefore be considered to reflect a broader change across the sample.

## Comparability with seasonally adjusted and trend data

The gross flows and rotation group data are in original terms only, and are included to provide additional information on the month-to-month movements. They have a considerable level of inherent sampling variability, which is specifically adjusted for in the trend and seasonally adjusted series. The trend data provides the best measure of the underlying behaviour of the labour market and is the focus of the commentary in this publication.

#### Contribution from sample components to estimates

**↓ Download** XLSX

[42.21 KB]

#### Data downloads

c Feedbac

Labour Force Survey results are released in three stages.

- 1. Spreadsheets of the headline indicators are published in this release
- 2. Additional, more detailed spreadsheets and pivot tables are published in <u>Labour Force</u>, <u>Australia</u>, <u>Detailed</u> (/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release) one week after this first release
- 3. Longitudinal labour force microdata are released in the ABS DataLab on a monthly basis, one day after the detailed release (see Microdata: Longitudinal Labour Force, Australia (/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia))

See the <u>Survey output (/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/sep-2024#survey-output)</u> section of Labour Force, Australia methodology for more information.

#### Labour Force status

Table 1. Labour force status by Sex, Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** 

[727.96 KB]

Table 4. Labour force status by Sex, New South Wales - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**↓ Download** XLSX

[538.66 KB]

Table 5. Labour force status by Sex, Victoria - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** 

[538.21 KB]

Table 6. Labour force status by Sex, Queensland - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** 

[540.24 KB]

Table 7. Labour force status by Sex, South Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**▶ Download** XLSX

[534.35 KB]

Table 8. Labour force status by Sex, Western Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**↓ Download** XLSX

[537.53 KB]

Table 9. Labour force status by Sex, Tasmania - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**↓ Download** XLSX

[536.62 KB]

Table 10. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Trend and Original

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** 

[488.98 KB]

Table 10a. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Seasonally adjusted

**↓ Download** XLSX

[166.46 KB]

Table 11. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Trend and Original

**↓ Download** XLSX

[442.63 KB]

Table 11a. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Seasonally adjusted

**<u> ▼ Download XLSX</u>** 

[166.91 KB]

Table 12. Labour force status by Sex, State and Territory - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original **<u> ▶ Download XLSX</u>** 

[4.45 MB]

Table 12a. Labour force status by Sex, Territory - Seasonally adjusted

[285.88 KB]

Table 13. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**▶ Download** XLSX

[713.09 KB]

Table 15. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Educational attendance (full-time) and Sex

**▶ Download** XLSX

[806.9 KB]

Table 16. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by State, Territory and Educational attendance (full-time)

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** [2.49 MB]

Table 17. Labour force status for 15-19 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**▶ Download** XLSX

[604.2 KB]

Table 18. Labour force status for 15-64 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** [724.17 KB]

> The Labour Account (/statistics/labour/labour-accounts/labour-account-australia/latest-release) is the best source of quarterly data for the market and non-market sectors. For information, see Industry employment guide (/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/industry-employment-guide).

#### Hours worked

Table 19. Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and by State and Territory - Trend and Seasonally adjusted

**↓ Download** XLSX [263.71 KB]

Table 19a. Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and Territory -Seasonally adjusted

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** [61.26 KB]

Table 21. Quarterly hours worked in all jobs by Market and Non-market sector - Seasonally adjusted

**<u> ▶ Download XLSX</u>** [58.02 KB]

Underemployment and underutilisation

Table 22. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

**↓ Download** XLSX

[4.96 MB]

Table 23. Underutilised persons by State and Territory and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and

[6.07 MB]

Table 23a. Underutilised persons by Territory and Sex - Seasonally adjusted

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** 

[413.3 KB]

Table 24. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex (expanded analytical series)

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** 

[518.15 KB]

Table 25. Underutilised persons by State, Territory and Sex (expanded analytical series)

**▶ Download** XLSX

[427.38 KB]

#### Flows into and out of employment

GM1 - Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and Territory, October 2005 to September 2024

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** 

[94.18 MB]

GM1 - Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and Territory, Historical (from February 1991)

**<u> → Download XLSX</u>** 

[<u>97.38 MB</u>]

#### All time series spreadsheets

All time series spreadsheets

**▶** Download ZIP

[27.21 MB]

## **Data Explorer datasets**

Caution: Data in the Data Explorer is currently released after the 11:30am release on the ABS website. Please check the time period when using Data Explorer.

For information on Data Explorer and how it works, see the <u>Data Explorer user guide (/about/data-services/data-explorer-user-guide)</u>.

Labour Force status by Sex, State and Territory (https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis? tm=labour%20force&pg=0&df[ds]=ABS\_ABS\_TOPICS&df[id]=LF&df[ag]=ABS&df[vs]=1.0.0&hc[Measure]=Labour%20F orce&hc[ABS%20Topics]=LABOUR&pd=2021-01%2C&dq=M9.3.1599.30%2B10%2B20.AUS.M&ly[cl]=TIME\_PERIOD&ly[rw]=TSEST)\_ - Number of people employed, unemployed and not in the labour force, monthly, February 1978 and onwards.

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#### Previous catalogue number

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## Methodology

<u>Labour Force, Australia methodology, September 2024</u>